

Swansea Primary

1195 I.W. Hutto Road
Swansea, South Carolina 29160

Grades PK-2 Primary School

Enrollment 304 Students

Principal Leslie Hightower 803-568-1050

Superintendent Dr. J. Franklin Vail 803-568-1000

Board Chair Chris Pound 803-791-7615

The State of South Carolina

Annual School
Report Card

2005

ABSOLUTE RATING

EXCELLENT

Absolute Ratings of Primary Schools with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
11	0	0	0	0

IMPROVEMENT RATING

GOOD

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

NO

Definition: As approved by the United States Department of Education, a school with no grade above 2 meets the requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress, providing that the school that the majority of those students attend in grade 3 meets the requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress.

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2002	Excellent	N/A	N/A
2003	Excellent	Good	No
2004	Excellent	Excellent	No
2005	Excellent	Good	No

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

PERFORMANCE RATING CRITERIA

Student attendance rate	95.0%
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	17.5 to 1
Percent of parents attending conferences	98.2%
Days of professional development devoted exclusively to knowledge and skills in working with children less than eight years old.	2.8

Type of accreditation: *(More than one may apply)*

- ☐ Not pursuing accreditation
☐ Conducting a self-study
☒ State Department of Education
☐ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
☐ American Montessori Society
☐ National Association for the Education of Young Children

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable **N/AV** Not Available **N/C** Not Collected **N/R** Not Reported **I/S** Insufficient Sample

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Primary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Primary School
Students (n= 304)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	100.0%	No change	97.5%	98.8%
Retention rate	6.5%	Up from 3.5%	4.4%	4.6%
Attendance rate	95.0%	Up from 94.6%	95.1%	95.5%
With disabilities other than speech	5.1%	Up from 3.3%	4.2%	3.9%
Older than usual for grade	1.3%	Up from 0.9%	0.3%	0.3%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No change	0.0%	0.0%

Teachers (n= 26)

Teachers with advanced degrees	30.8%	Up from 26.9%	58.1%	52.2%
Continuing contract teachers	84.6%	Down from 92.3%	86.5%	88.6%
Highly qualified teachers	95.7%	Down from 100.0%	95.2%	96.3%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	Down from 4.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	86.6%	Up from 77.1%	90.7%	89.1%
Teacher attendance rate	89.3%	Down from 94.4%	94.7%	94.6%
Average teacher salary	\$40,352	Up 7.1%	\$41,232	\$40,952
Prof. development days/teacher	22.7 days	Up from 14.4 days	16.7 days	16.5 days

School

Principal's years at school	4.0	Up from 3.0	4.0	4.5
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	17.5 to 1	Down from 18.4 to 1	19.2 to 1	19.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	79.9%	Down from 85.4%	88.2%	88.6%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$6,832	Up 1.1%	\$6,545	\$5,871
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	58.2%	Down from 59.7%	63.1%	62.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good	Good
Parents attending conferences	98.2%	Down from 99.0%	99.0%	99.0%
SACS accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Good	No change	Good	Good

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	89.4%
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	90.1%
	State Objective	Met State Objective
Highly qualified teachers in this school	65.0%	Yes
Student attendance rate in this school	95.3%	No

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REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

This has been a productive year for the students, staff, and families of Swansea Primary School. Our early childhood program for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds was enhanced to more effectively meet the needs of our young learners as defined by state and national standards. Additional materials and supplies for classrooms were carefully selected, classroom environments were self-assessed, and an early childhood handbook for families of our students was introduced. Thirty-two additional 3- and 4-year-olds were served in our program as well. Our teachers participated in a graduate level early childhood course to review current developmentally appropriate practices for young learners. As a result of these activities, our early childhood program received an 'Excellent' rating from the State Department's Early Childhood Evaluation Rating Scale visit.

In an effort to continue to improve services to students, first and second grade students participated in enrichment classes and academic assistance to meet the needs of individual learners; a part-time math/science coach assisted teachers with identifying materials and instructional best practices for use in math and science; computer software in math was purchased by PTO to assist or enrich children at all instructional levels; faculty and staff participated in professional development such as book studies including About the Authors, by Katie Wood Ray.

Emily Allen represented Swansea Primary as Teacher of the Year for 2004-2005 and will serve as our literacy coach for the 2005-2006 school year. A weekly newsletter is now published to give families up-to-date information about school events.

Our PTO and School Improvement Council also greatly contributed to our success this year. Our PTO raised money for instructional materials for teachers and students. PTO enhanced parent and community involvement with community activities such as Pastries for Parents, a Fall Festival, family pizza dinners, and workshops for parents.

School Improvement Council identified several challenges this year that have evolved into school goals for 2005-2006. These goals include continuing to implement best teaching practices in math and reading for all students with the help of two full-time instructional coaches, providing our 3- and 4-year-old program for all students who enroll and continuing to increase home/school communication.

We are proud of the 2004-2005 school year at Swansea Primary. As we make instructional decisions based on the needs of students, we continue to strive for every child's success. We are glad our community is a part of that success.

Jennifer Fuller, School Improvement Council Chair
Leslie Hightower, Principal

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS

	Teachers
Number of surveys returned	30
Percent satisfied with learning environment	93.3%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	96.7%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	82.1%